Security to Prime Minister

701. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government are planning to amend the Special Protection Group Act in order to restrict this elite security cover to the serving Prime Minister and members of his immediate family;

(b) if so, the details regarding the Special Protection Group cover provided to former Prime Ministers; and

(c) the details regarding the desirability of amending the Special Protection Group Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). There is no move at present to amend the SPG Act to restrict SPG security cover to the serving Prime Minister and members of his immediate family.

(c) Does not arise.

Performance of Central Schemes

702. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide improved credit and other incentives and input support to small and marginal farmers in the country in general and in dry land areas in particular;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of central schemes designed to benefit small and marginal farmers; and

(c) if so, the details of achievements made thereunder during the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c). A number of Schemes have been taken up by Central Government for agricultural development. These schemes help the farmers including small and marginal farmers both directly and indirectly. Guideline have been issued to State Governments from time to time to give the benefits of the scheme to the economically weaker sections among the farming community. These instructions are reiterated during discussions, review meetings, field visits etc. However, selection of farmers for implementation of the scheme is done by the State Governments. Since the benefits flow to the small and marginal farmers both directly and indirectly, it is difficult to give achievements in this regard.

As regards credit, schemes have been taken up for strengthening the cooperative credit institutions to enable them to disburse increased credit to farmers for purchase of inputs etc. A flexible line of credit in the form of cash credit limit has also been introduced for the benefit of farmers.

Concessions for Disabled Persons

703. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any demand for special concessions for the hearing impaired children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to amend the provisions of Persons with Disabilities Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995; and

(d) if so, the time by which the act is proposed to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demand mainly pertains to ensure the admission of children with disabilities to normal Government and public schools, both aided and unaided. The amendment in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been suggested to ensure this arrangement.

(c) Not at present. However, the Ministry is already giving grants for the purpose of running Spcial Schools for the hearing impaired children alongwith free/ subsidised distribution of aids and appliances.

(d) Does not arise.

Strengthening of State Pollution Control Board

704. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have plans for strengthening the State Pollution Control Boards and set up a mechanism for continuous interaction between the Central and State Government in relation to afforestation, forest protection and other important issues concerning environments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a meeting of Chairman of all State Pollution Control Boards and State Secretaries of Environment was called to discuss important policy issues and work out action plan to tackle the problems;

(d) if so, the details of short term and long term strategies worked out and the Action Plan formulated in each State; and

(e) the important projects funded by/proposed for funding by the International agencies and their present status/achievements made thereunder, State-wise?